

## State Water Control Board Overview

The following information gives an overview of the State Water Control Board's responsibilities, member qualifications and compensation, and board meetings.



### Responsibilities

The State Water Control Board is responsible for administering the Virginia Water Control Law. The board adopts regulations and considers special orders resolving violations of its regulations and permits that have had a related public hearing. Day-to-day administration of the board's programs is delegated to the Department of Environmental Quality.

The board is responsible for the following:

- Setting standards of quality for state waters (Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act) and water quality controls
- Determining requirements for treating sewage and industrial waste and for the recovery and reuse of wastewater
- Making regulations to control pollution from boats
- Considering certificates for the discharge of treated waste into state waters and for wetland excavation
- Developing coordinated state policy, plans and programs for the conservation and economic development of the state's water resources
- Upholding regulations related to aboveground and underground storage tanks, oil discharge contingency plans and the financial responsibility of facilities and tank vessels that transport oil
- Developing regulations governing the issuance of surface water withdrawal permits
- Designating surface water management areas and issuing ground water withdrawal permits (Ground Water Management Act of 1992)
- Administering programs of state and federal financial assistance for purposes of water quality control and conservation
- Issuing procedures governing financial assistance for construction of publicly owned wastewater treatment works

### Member qualifications

The governor appoints seven Virginia citizens to serve as board members. The selection is based on merit without regard to political affiliation; and shall, by character and reputation, reasonably be expected to inspire the highest degree of cooperation and confidence in the work of the board. Members shall, by their education, training, or experience, be knowledgeable of water quality control and regulation and shall be fairly representative of conservation, public health, business, and agriculture. No person shall become a member of the board who receives, or during the previous two years has received, a significant portion of his income directly or indirectly from certificate or permit holders or applicants for a certificate or permit.

## **Meetings and public hearings**

Virginia law requires the board to meet at least four times per year. The average length of the meetings is six hours. The meetings usually take place in Richmond. DEQ provides members with agenda materials to help them prepare for the meetings.

Public hearings related to water permits occur in addition to the board meetings. At least one water board member must attend each public hearing. The hearings can be anywhere in the state and are normally during the evening.

## **Compensation**

Board members receive reasonable and necessary travel expenses as determined by state regulations.

## **Additional resources**

Information on the State Water Control Law (Code of Virginia, Title 62.1, Chapter 3.1) and the Ground Water Management Act of 1992 (Code of Virginia, Title 62.1, Chapter 25) is available through the [Code of Virginia database](#).